



Atty. Dkt. No. 042098-0103

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Bruno BERGE
Title: DROP CENTERING DEVICE
Appl. No.: 09/937,508
Filing Date: 05/22/2002
Examiner: Darryl J. Collins
Art Unit: 2873

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

03/24/2006 HALI11 00000136 09937508
01 FC:1806 180.00 DP

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

All of the U.S. patent documents are in English. The JP documents and the French PCT document were cited on the face of the Tsuboi U.S. Patent No. 6,702,483 (the patent with which applicant is suggesting an interference), and an English language abstract of each one is enclosed.

TIMING OF THIS SUBMISSION

This IDS is being filed after a first action on the merits but before a final action, a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c), this IDS is accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(p).

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 23 March 2006

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: March 23, 2006 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
Application Number		09/937,508			
Filing Date		05/22/2002			
First Named Inventor		Bruno BERGE			
Group Art Unit		2873			
Examiner Name		Darryl J. Collins			
Attorney Docket Number		042098-0103			

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
 MAR 23 2006
 PTO

Sheet	1	of	1
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	E1	4,030,813		Kohashi et al.	06-1977	
	E2	5,687,401		Kawamura et al.	11-1997	
	E3	5,745,255		Yamaguchi	04-1998	
	E4	6,449,081		Onuki et al.	09-2002	
	E5	6,702,483		Tsuboi et al.	03-2004	

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Application Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Serial Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	E6	10/819,888		Berge et al.	04-2004	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	E7	JP	7-5497			01-1995		
	E8	JP	7-128635			05-1995		
	E9	JP	9-15681			01-1997		
	E10	JP	9-236740			09-1997		
	E11	JP	3-87816			09-2000		
	E12	WO	97/43731			11-1997		
	E13	WO	99/18456			04-1999		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.